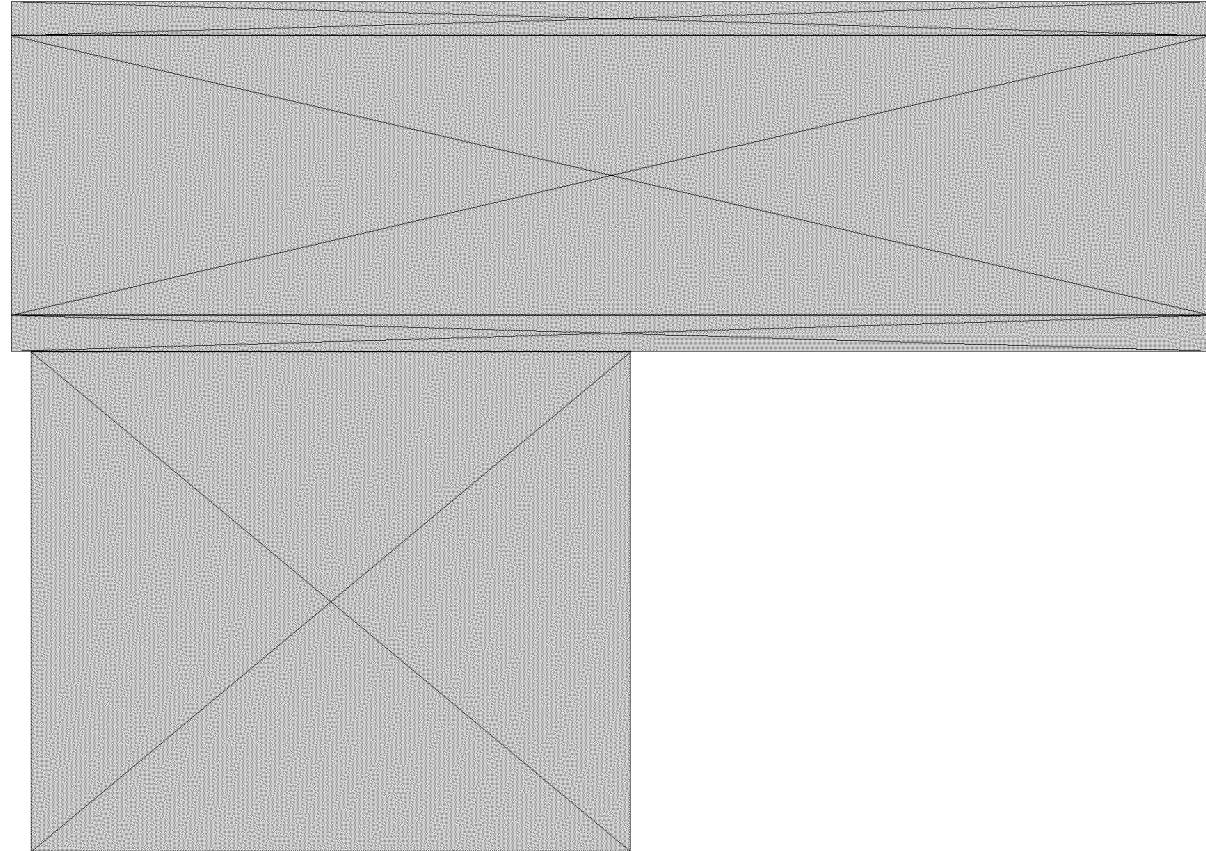


To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: EnergyGuardian
Sent: Tue 8/11/2015 9:43:48 PM
Subject: Aircraft industry, clean air advocates spar over EPA's role in plane emissions

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Energy and environment headlines for the afternoon of Tuesday, August 11, 2015



Aircraft industry, clean air advocates spar over EPA's role in plane emissions

By Kevin Rogers

The Environmental Protection Agency's sole public hearing on a proposal to find aircraft carbon emissions a public health danger made clear that the debate over regulating such emissions would focus on whether the agency should yield to an international regulator.

The hearing on the agency's proposed endangerment finding gave representatives of the aircraft industry an opportunity to urge EPA to creak with whatever the International Civil

Aviation Organization adopts in February 2016.

But clean air advocates and environmental groups warned that deferring to the ICAO standards, which are currently being negotiated, would leave the U.S. and the international community vulnerable to "deeply insufficient" regulation.

The endangerment finding — and any regulations it might lead to — would cover aircraft engines made in the United States. EPA estimates that those engines account for 3 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, 11 percent of total U.S. transportation emissions and 29 percent of global aircraft emissions.

Nancy Young, vice president for environmental affairs at Airlines for America, argued that, since the airline industry serves an international market, EPA should simply adopt whatever the United Nations-backed ICAO decides.

"Given the industry's demonstrated fuel-efficiency record and economic incentives to continue that trend, there's a real question as to whether any EPA regulation for greenhouse gas emissions from aircraft engines is needed," she said.

"That said, as aviation is a global industry, with airlines operating internationally, manufacturers selling their aircraft in international markets, it is critical that aircraft emissions standards be set at the international level and not imposed unilaterally," she added.

Leslie Riegler, director of environmental policy at the Aerospace Industries Association, took a similar stance, noting that the ICAO has more expertise regulating the aerospace industry, and that the U.S. has in the past abided by ICAO standards.

"I see no reason for the EPA to stray from this well-established precedent in addressing aircraft GHG emissions," she said.

Riegler also said adopting the ICAO standards would protect American companies.

"Doing so will ensure that domestic manufacturers are not placed at a competitive disadvantage with international competitors," she said.

But environmental groups argued that the ICAO standards wouldn't be sufficient to protect domestic and global skies from aircraft carbon, and called on EPA to develop a robust regulatory system.

Doug Wolf, a senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity, said the agency has a duty to establish its own regime, as U.S. aircraft emissions make up nearly a third of total world levels.

"The aircraft industry has too long evaded every attempt to make sure it does its fair share," he said. "U.S. aviation emissions harm the global economy in a hugely disproportionate fashion. (The) U.S. must reverse the situation and cut emissions quickly and deeply and

must reject the deeply insufficient measures proposed by the International Civil Aviation Organization.”

Wolf also called for the agency to speed up its process and release a proposed rule for aircraft emissions by November 2015, contending that the agency had waited too long on its endangerment finding.

Sancy Kruger, deputy director of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, also endorsed a stringent domestic regulation for airplane emissions.

“Aircraft represent the single-largest transportation source of greenhouse gas emissions not subject to greenhouse gas standards. Clearly this is a sector that merits regulation commensurate with other transportation sectors,” she said. “In the U.S., this is especially critical, since state and local air control agencies do not have the authority under the federal Clean Air Act to regulate aircraft emissions beyond the limits set by EPA.”

Under its Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, EPA would exempt from emissions regulations smaller recreational aircraft, helicopters and military aircraft. The agency will continue to receive public comment on the proposal until August 31.

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Upcoming Events

EPA chief: Colorado mine spill 'pains me'

By Michael Biesecker

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the Environmental Protection Agency said Tuesday her department takes full responsibility for spilling 3 million gallons of mining waste that turned a southwest Colorado river an unnatural shade of orange, adding it "pains me to no end."

Gina McCarthy made the comments as her agency comes under increased scrutiny after federal and contract workers accidentally unleashed the spill last week while inspecting the abandoned Gold King mine near Silverton, Colorado.

The contaminated water that flowed into a tributary of the Animas and San Juan rivers contained high levels of arsenic, lead and other potentially toxic heavy metals. McCarthy expressed regret that the spill occurred and said her agency has "added responsibility here."

"It is really a tragic and very unfortunate incident, and EPA is taking responsibility to ensure that that spill is cleaned up," McCarthy said. "I am absolutely, deeply sorry that this ever happened."

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Navajo president: EPA says spill cleanup could take decades

By Susan Montoya Bryan and Ellen Knickmeyer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Townspeople affected by the millions of gallons of waste spilled from an abandoned gold mine and now flowing through their communities demanded clarity Tuesday about any long-term threats to their water supply.

Colorado and New Mexico made disaster declarations for stretches of the Animas and San Juan rivers and the Navajo Nation declared an emergency as the waste spread more than 100 miles downstream, where it will reach Lake Powell in Utah sometime this week.

EPA workers accidentally unleashed an estimated 3 million gallons of orange-yellow waste, including high concentrations of arsenic, lead and other potentially toxic heavy metals, while inspecting the long-abandoned Gold King mine near Silverton, Colorado, on Aug. 5.

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, who plans to tour the damage personally, said Tuesday in Washington, D.C., that she takes full responsibility for the spill, which she said "pains me to no end." She said the agency is working around the clock to assess the environmental impact.

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Oil price slumps to lowest level in more than 6 years

By Alex Veiga, AP Business Writer

The price of U.S. crude oil has tumbled to its lowest level in more than six years.

The latest slide on Tuesday came as OPEC said its production rose to a three-year high. China also devalued its currency, suggesting economic growth there was softer and could cause lower crude demand.

Benchmark U.S. crude fell \$1.88, or 4 percent, to \$43.08 a barrel in New York. Its previous low for this year was \$43.46 on March 17. U.S. crude has been declining since reaching a high this year of \$61.43 a barrel on June 10.

Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, declined \$1.23, or 2.4 percent, to \$49.18 a barrel in London.

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Kerry, top Democratic senator spar on Iran deal, sanctions

By Bradley Klapper and Deb Riechmann

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State John Kerry sparred Tuesday with the lone Democratic senator to publicly oppose last month's historic Iran nuclear deal, saying there was no way the U.S. could prevent American allies from doing business with Tehran if Congress were to reject the agreement.

Speaking across town in New York, Sen. Chuck Schumer disagreed and suggested Washington still could force the world into isolating the Iranians until they make deeper nuclear concessions.

The dispute goes to the heart of the questions that American lawmakers are considering as they prepare to vote on the nuclear accord.

If they were to shelve the deal — and override an expected presidential veto — they could severely complicate the Obama administration's ability to honor its commitments to roll back economic sanctions on Iran. In exchange, Iran has agreed to a decade of tough restrictions on Iran's nuclear program and a far more intrusive inspections regime.

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Japan committed to nuclear power despite Fukushima fiasco

By Elaine Kurtenbach and Mari Yamaguchi

TOKYO (AP) — With the pull of a lever, control rods were lifted Tuesday from the reactor core at a plant in southern Japan, ending a ban on nuclear power following meltdowns at Fukushima in the northeast that forced tens of thousands of people to leave their homes, most of them for good.

Crowded, energy-scarce Japan remains committed to nuclear power despite the March 2011 accident at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi plant and its messy aftermath, for economic, environmental and political reasons.

Polls show that most Japanese don't want nuclear power, but public opinion has been trumped by leaders who say keeping the country's 43 workable reactors offline forever would be too damaging economically.

Though two other nuclear reactors briefly resumed operations after the Fukushima meltdowns, Japan has gone completely without nuclear power for nearly two years under tighter new regulations. Reactors remained idle pending safety inspections.

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A message from the American Petroleum Institute

America is now the world's #1 natural gas producer and will soon be #1 in oil. Now more than ever, abundant energy means abundant prosperity, opportunity and security for all Americans.

[Learn more at EnergyTomorrow.org](http://EnergyTomorrow.org)

Uganda lists 16 firms eligible to bid for oil exploration

By Rodney Muhumuza

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — The Uganda government on Tuesday listed 16 international firms that are authorized to bid for oil exploration rights to six blocks of land near Uganda's border with Congo.

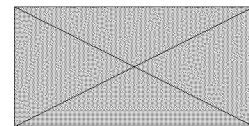
The list includes firms from Russia, the U.S., South Africa and Australia.

Uganda's first oil licensing round is being watched by activists who hope the oil blocks will eventually go to firms with strong social and environmental track records.

The territory in the Albertine Graben region of western Uganda is ecologically sensitive and one of the blocks on offer lies in the Lake Edward basin inside Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park. Lake Edward extends into Congo, where it forms part of the Virunga National Park, a UNESCO world heritage site that is home to some of the world's last mountain gorillas.

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Week in Review - Clean Power Plan rolls out amid charges of collusion

Meanwhile, power plant emissions hit 27-year low.

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Carbon rule will survive past Obama administration: McCarthy

It would be “a significant hurdle” for the next president to roll back the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said Tuesday, adding that she believes the rule limiting power plant carbon emissions “is legally solid,” The Hill reports.

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Business boosts attacks on ozone limits

Seeking to head off a move by the Environmental Protection Agency to lower permissible ozone levels in the atmosphere, the National Association of Manufacturers is launching an advertising campaign against it, while the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is issuing a series of reports detailing how such a step could hit local economies, The Hill reports.

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No drop in Western U.S. ozone emissions as Chinese pollution drifts

An expected decline in ozone levels in the Western U.S. between 2005 and 2010 didn't materialize, a study found, citing drifting emissions from China as one big reason why, E&E reports.

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Chicago-area refinery outage scrambles prices

Crude prices have been slumping and gasoline prices in the Midwest soaring as a result of a shutdown at the BP refinery in Whiting, Indiana, Bloomberg reports, noting that the outage could continue for a month.

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Coal bankruptcies: 'Nobody knows where the bottom is'

"Nobody can see any growth and nobody knows where the bottom is," said a business academic about the coal industry in the wake of the bankruptcy filing by Alpha Natural Resources, E&E reports.

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2015: Year for writedowns in oil and gas

Low prices are pushing oil and gas companies to reduce the value of their assets on paper, and IHS analyst Paul O'Donnell told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette 2015 may see the most impairments for the past ten years.

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Feelings run high as Dominion decommissions Wisconsin nuke plant

Local residents are angry at the shutdown of Dominion Energy's Kewaunee nuclear power plant in northeastern Wisconsin, and a dispute between the town and company over the tax impact could end up in court, The New York Times reports.

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Wanxiang to build Fisker car in Southern California

Wanxiang Group, the Chinese auto parts company that bought bankrupt Fisker Automotive, has signed a lease for a facility to build Fisker electric cars in Riverside County, the Los Angeles Times reports.

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Petrobras scandal extends to U.S. soil, Brazilian officials claim

Brazil has come up with evidence that suspects in the Petrobras corruption case worked out details of an alleged bribe in a Manhattan hotel room in 2008, The Wall Street Journal reports.

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Upcoming Events

- Aug. 11, Billings: The Bureau of Land Management to hold a listening session on potential reforms to the federal coal leasing program. 2:00 pm , 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana.
- Aug. 11, Washington: Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy to speak on the final Clean Power Plan at an event hosted by Resources for the Future. 12:15 pm , 1616 P St. NW, Washington, DC.
- Aug. 11, Washington: The Environmental Protection Agency to hold public hearing on its proposed endangerment hearing for airline carbon emissions. Call In: 1-866-299-3188, Passcode: 1433527160. 10:00 am , Environmental Protection Agency.

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